(b) As per the latest information in the Ministry of Steel, 214 investors have signed Memorandum of Understandings / Agreements with various State Governments to set up steel projects having approx capacity of 263.17 mtpa (approx) at proposed cost of Rupees 5,67,743.77 Crores approx.

(c) The issue of land acquisition and environmental clearance in respect of forest land for steel project involve Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) issues which is a subject to be dealt with by the concerned State Governments. The Government of India has no direct role to play on land acquisition issues.

(d) Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country. The Inter Ministerial Group functions under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) with members from various Central Ministries / Departments, such as Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Industrial Policy & Promotion, Mines, Environment & Forest and the concerned State Governments.

Setting up of steel plants

2162. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MoUs have been signed between Central / State Government for setting up of steel companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and MoU-wise;

(c) how many companies have actually set up steel plants as a result of MoU in the last three years; and

(d) the reasons for non-emergence of new steel capacities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) The details of MoUs signed alongwith the name of companies for setting up of iron and steel plants in mineral rich States Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh and the present status of projects, State-wise and project-wise are given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix 214, Annexure no. 12] as per the record of information available in the Ministry of Steel.

(d) Steel projects are captital and resource intensive and most of the major projects are going on at different stages of their progress.

Decline in Steel production

2163. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of steel has declined during last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a huge decline in the production and prices of steel due to economic recession; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) As per the monthly datagram April to November 2008 and for the corresponding period of the previous year given in the statement-I and II respectively (see below). The production of crude steel during last six months of the year 2008 has declined in case of both the public sector steel producers namely Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) but has marginally increased in case of private producers (except for the month of November, 2008 where it has declined) as compared to the corresponding months of the last year.

The major steel companies have attributed the lower production to sluggish demand of steel in the country from all steel consuming sectors like automobile, construction, etc. on account of global economic turmoil and have taken up capital repairs of their plants/machinery to utilize this opportunity.

The data regarding production of crude steel in the country and retail steel price movement in Delhi during/the last one year (December 2007 to November, 2008) is given in the Statement-III and IV respectively.

Statement-I

Production of crude steel *

Plants		2008 - 09								
		April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Apr-Nov
A.	**Public Sector**									
	SAIL	1064	1069	1060	1133	1203	1172	1198	1079	8978
	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	264	244	246	268	268	263	269	205	2027
	Sub TOTAL (A)	1328	1313	1306	1401	1471	1435	1467	1284	11005
B.	**Private Sector**									
	Tata Iron & Steel	412	416	425	436	473	445	488	514	3609
	Essar	333	335	287	251	338	334	347	330	2555
	Ispat	245	268	246	272	266	242	246	234	2019
	JSWL	247	274	285	275	284	272	278	264	2179
	Others	1775	1823	1882	1902	1912	1952	2029	1578	14853
	Sub TOTAL (B)	3012	3116	3125	3136	3273	3245	3388	2920	25215
	TOTAL (A + B)	4340	4429	4431	4537	4744	4680	4855	4204	36220

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

* Provisional

Statement-II

Production of crude steel

Plants		2008 - 09								
		April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Apr-Nov
A.	**Public Sector**									
	SAIL	1122	1174	1090	1080	1113	1140	1227	1212	9158
	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	244	272	268	213	286	257	275	236	2051
	Sub TOTAL (A)	1366	1446	1358	1293	1399	1397	1502	1448	11209
B.	**Private Sector**									
	Tata Iron & Steel	412	377	365	421	440	419	429	418	3281
	Essar	274	325	296	271	278	287	329	304	2364
	Ispat	235	196	232	239	246	238	245	226	1857
	JSWL	216	259	233	237	288	258	286	268	2045
	Others	1814	1814	1831	1714	1792	1840	1963	1837	14632
	Sub TOTAL (B)	2951	2998	2957	2882	3044	3042	3252	3053	24179
	TOTAL (A + B)	4317	4444	4315	4175	4443	4439	4754	4501	35388

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

Statement-III

Production of crude steel (December' 07 to November' 08)

(In thousand tonnes)

Plants	Dec' 07	Jan' 08	Feb' 08	Mar' 08	Apr' 08	May' 08	Jun' 08	Jul' 08	Aug' 08	Sep' 08	Oct' 08	Nov' 08
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A. Public Sector												
SAIL	1219	1210	1144	1230	1064	1069	1060	1133	1203	1172	1198	1079
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	276	270	275	265	264	244	246	268	268	263	269	205
Sub TOTAL (A)	1495	1480	1419	1495	1328	1313	1306	1401	1471	1435	1467	1284
B. Private Sector												
Tata Iron & Steel	429	419	416	470	412	416	425	436	473	445	488	514

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Steel Majors	860	850	800	850	825	877	818	798	888	848	871	828
Others	1945	2050	2000	2050	1775	1823	1882	1902	1912	1952	2029	1578
Sub TOTAL (B)	3229	3319	3216	3370	3012	3116	3125	3136	3273	3245	3388	2920
Grand TOTAL (A + B)	4724	4799	4635	4865	4340	4429	4431	4537	4744	4680	4855	4204

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

* Provisional

Statement-IV

Retail Steel Price Movement in Delhi Market during Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008

Month	H R 2.0 m m	C R 0.63 m m	TMT 10 mm	Wire Rod 8 m m	Pig Iron	Pencil Ingot 100 m m
December 2007	35100	38000	32200	32000	24500	26650
January 2008	35350	38700	37450	35000	24250	30725
February 2008	38100	40575	40200	37500	26000	33000
March 2008	44000	48000	43775	43450	31000	40000
April 2008	49000	52000	46000	43600	34500	38300
May 2008	43000	45000	38200	38000	32400	33000
June 2008	50045	49492	47451	45925	32900	39650
July 2008	45327	48145	43335	43738	35397	38168
August 2008	45477	48145	42727	43073	36873	35366
September 2008	45327	48700	41934	43664	36000	35300
October 2008	44984	47119	40253	41726	34947	29300
November 2008	41977	42392	38846	40105	29164	27221
December 2008 (As on 8.12.2008)	41907	43037	37907	38662	26000	26486

• Monthly prices as on 15th of the corresponding month

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

Merger of steel companies

2164. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to make Orissa Minerals Development Company (OMDC), Barabil and Bishra Lime Stone Company as public sector companies and ultimately merge them with SAIL;